GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1538
ANSWERED ON:10.03.2008
TELECOM COVERAGE AREA
Siddeswara Shri Gowdar Mallikarjunappa

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the tele-density in the country has gone up over a period of time as a result of allowing private telecom operators in the communication network of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the percentage of coverage of rural areas by private telecom operators out of their total communication coverage area in the country?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The tele-density in the country has gone up from 0.89 % in March 1994 to 24.63 % by the end of January 2008.

(c) As on 31.01.2008, out of 205.15 million telephones provided by private telecom operators in the country, about 45.59 million telephones have been provided in the rural areas which are about 22.22 % of the total telephones provided by them in the country.